
MEDIA ADVISORY

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EL NUEVO CONSTANTE EXHIBIT AT THE LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES

The Louisiana State Archives is proud to announce the exhibit El Nuevo Constante, a cooperative endeavor between the State Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the Louisiana State Archives.

El Nuevo Constante is an 18th Century Spanish ship that sank off the coast of Louisiana in 1766. It left Mexico enroute to Spain in August when a hurricane prevented it from arriving at its intended destination.

In 1979, Curtis Blume found the ship when he caught several large ingots of copper in his shrimp nets near Little Constance Lake off the coast of Cameron Parish. He notified state archaeologists and historians, and together they worked to complete a comprehensive study of the shipwreck.

“Secretary of State Jay Dardenne and the Louisiana State Archives are proud to exhibit artifacts unearthed from El Nuevo Constante,” state archivist Dr. Florent Hardy said. “Visitors are impressed with the extensive collection and its remarkable history. The timely exhibit is truly a microcosm of the effects of hurricanes in Louisiana history, just one of the many challenges facing the European settlers during colonial times.”

Among the items on display are copper ingots, pewter, glassware, bones from chickens and goat horns, fragments of green glazed olive jars and miniature ceramic items. The exhibit also includes an informative booklet written by archaeologist Dr. Charles E. Pearson and historian Dr. Paul E. Hoffman.

The public is invited to view the exhibit until Jan. 31, 2007, during regular Archives hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. through 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. through 5 p.m.

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